

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 IO-13 /076 W

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R 300557Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA FROM
MADRAS AUG 27, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

MADRAS 1546

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: GOI INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO EXTEND KERALA ASSEMBLY'S
TERM FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 1976

REF: (A) MADRAS 1280

(B) MADRAS 1353

(C) MADRAS 1543

1. A BILL TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 22, 1976 WAS IN-
TRODUCED IN THE LOK SABHA ON AUGUST 26. EXPLAINING THE DECISION
TO EXTEND THE ASSEMBLY'S TERM, GOI LAW MINISTER H.R. GOKHALE TOLD
THE LOK SABHA AUGUST 26 THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH CAUSED THE
EARLIER EXTENSION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S TERM WERE BASICALLY UNCHANGED.
HE STATED, "IT IS THEREFORE FELT THAT IT IS NOT DESIRABLE TO HOLD
ELECTIONS NOW." THE TERM OF THE KERALA ASSEMBLY, WHICH EXPIRED ON
OCTOBER 21, 1975, HAD BEEN EXTENDED TWICE, WITH THE SECOND EXTENSION
DUE TO EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 21, 1976. WITH THE PRESENT THIRD EXTENSION
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THE ASSEMBLY'S TERM WILL NOW EXPIRE ON APRIL 21, 1977.

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS A AND B, OPINIONS IN KERALA DIFFERED CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF ELECTIONS WHEN THE SECOND EXTENSION EXPIRES IN OCTOBER. THE NEW EXTENSION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S TERM INDICATES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT MADE UP HER MIND DEFINITELY REGARDING KERALA ELECTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT SHE WILL PROBABLY DELAY A DECISION UNTIL HER PROPOSED VISIT TO KERALA IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER TO INAUGURATE THE TRIVANDRUM/QUILON BROADGUAGE RAILLINK AND UNTIL THE SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT CONVENES IN OCTOBER (REFTEL C). IN THE MEANTIME WE WILL OBSERVE THE FALLOUT FROM GOKHALE'S ANNOUNCEMENT. SIGNED SCOTT UNQUOTE SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE BILLS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12693
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760367-0358
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976087/aaaaafmm.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRAS 1280, 76 MADRAS 1353, 76 MADRAS 1543
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO EXTEND KERALA ASSEMBLY'S TERM FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 1976
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006